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CABINET MEETING -- GENEVA SUMMIT

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INITIAL MEDIA REACTIONS TO GENEVA SUMMIT

WA212116 FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE MEDIA ANALYSIS

FIRST REACTIONS FROM KEY SOVIET EUROPEAN AND ASIAN COUNTRIES AS THE GENEVA SUMMIT DREW TO A CLOSE WERE GENERALLY HOPEFUL THAT THE MEETING HAD ENGENDERED AN IMPROVED ATMOSPHERE FOR SUPERPOWER RELATIONS. SEVERAL COMMENTATORS EVINCED CONCERN OVER THE MAJOR DISPUTES THAT WERE LEFT UNRESOLVED, PARTICULARLY REGARDING ARMS CONTROL.

USSR

INITIAL SOVIET MEDIA REPORTS ON THE GENEVA SUMMIT, INCLUDING COVERAGE OF STATEMENTS BY GENERAL SECRETARY GORBACHEV AND OTHER OFFICIALS, HAVE PORTRAYED THE MEETING AS A QUALIFIED SUCCESS ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE DIRECTLY INDICATED AREAS OF DISAGREEMENT, PARTICULARLY ON ARMS CONTROL. MEDIA COMMENTARY ON THE SUMMIT WAS LESS CRITICAL OF PRESIDENT REAGAN THAN THAT BEFORE THE EVENT.

AN EARLY INDICATION OF MOSCOW'S ACCENT ON THE POSITIVE CAME IN A 20 NOVEMBER REPORT ON THE SUMMIT BROADCAST ON SOVIET TELEVISIONS IN WHICH LEONID ZAMYATIN, HEAD OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION DEPARTMENT, QUOTED GORBACHEV AS SAYING THAT THE "FACT THAT THE MEETING HAS TAKEN PLACE" IS "IN ITSELF VERY IMPORTANT." IN HIS BRIEF REMARKS AT THE 21 NOVEMBER CEREMONY CONCLUDING THE SUMMIT, BROADCAST LIVE ON SOVIET TELEVISION, GORBACHEV NOTED THAT WHILE IT HAD "NOT BEEN POSSIBLE" TO REACH AN AGREEMENT ON "STOPPING THE ARMS RACE," NEVERTHELESS "SUCH A DISCUSSION IN ITSELF" IS "USEFUL." SPEAKING AT A PRESS CONFERENCE LATER THAT DAY, GORBACHEV CHARACTERIZED HIS TALKS WITH PRESIDENT REAGAN AS A "SIGNIFICANT EVENT," ADDING THAT THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP WAS CONVINCED A "DIRECT CONVERSATION WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES" WAS AN "ESSENTIAL" FIRST STEP TOWARD IMPROVING BILATERAL RELATIONS AND EASING INTERNATIONAL TENSION.

COMMENTARY HAS ECHOED THIS THEME AND SOFTENED THE ATTACKS ON U.S. POLICIES THAT HAD DOMINATED COMMENTARY LEADING UP TO THE SUMMIT. FOR EXAMPLE, IN A COMMENTARY BROADCAST ON MOSCOW DOMESTIC RADIO ON 20 NOVEMBER, GENRIKH BOROVIK, ONE OF THE FOUR JOURNALISTS WHO CONDUCTED THE INTERVIEW OF PRESIDENT REAGAN PUBLISHED IN IZVESTIYA ON 5 NOVEMBER, DESCRIBED THE MEETING AS A "VERY SIGNIFICANT, POSITIVE PHENOMENON" AND AS PROOF THAT "DIALOGUE CAN BE CONDUCTED." BOROVIK, WHO HAD STRONGLY ATTACKED THE PRESIDENT'S INTERVIEW STATEMENTS IN A

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LENGTHY SOVIET TELEVISION COMMENTARY ON THE 5TH, AVOIDED ANY CRITICISM OF THE PRESIDENT OR U.S. POLICIES ON THE 20TH. IN A TELEVISION COMMENTARY THE SAME DAY, VETERAN COMMENTATOR FARID SEYFUL-MULYUKOV ASERED THAT BOTH PARTIES GAVE EVIDENCE OF AN "URGE TO CONDUCT SERIOUS TALKS" AND THAT A PESSIMISTIC ATTITUDE TOWARD THE SUMMIT WAS "INAPPROPRIATE." WHILE CHARGING THAT "PENTAGON CONTRACTORS" FEAR THAT THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION MIGHT REACH AN ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENT, SEYFUL-MULYUKOV, LIKE BOROVIK, DID NOT VOICE CRITICISM OF THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION.

THE PATTERN OF SOVIET COMMENTARY ON THE SUMMIT IS SIMILAR TO SOVIET MEDIA BEHAVIOR DURING THE JANUARY 1985 MEETING BETWEEN SECRETARY OF STATE SHULTZ AND THEN-FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO, AT WHICH IT WAS AGREED TO RESUME ARMS CONTROL NEGOTIATIONS. ON THAT OCCASION, INITIAL SOVIET REPORTS FOLLOWING THE MEETING WERE GENERALLY IN A LOWER KEY AND LESS POLEMICAL THAN PREVIOUS COMMENTARY. LATER, HOWEVER, AS MOSCOW BEGAN TO ACCUSE THE ADMINISTRATION OF FAILING TO ABIDE BY THE AGREEMENT REACHED DURING THAT MEETING, CRITICISM OF THE UNITED STATES BECAME SHARPER.

WARSAW PACT ALLIES

MOSCOW'S EAST EUROPEAN ALLIES HAVE THUS FAR TAKEN NOTE OF THE SUMMIT PRIMARILY IN REPORTS ON THE EVENTS AND THE STATEMENTS OF OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN. MORE SIGNIFICANT REACTION CAN BE EXPECTED FOLLOWING GORBACHEV'S BRIEFING OF A MEETING OF EAST EUROPEAN LEADERS IN PRAGUE ON HIS WAY BACK TO MOSCOW.

TYPICAL OF REPORTAGE, A PRAGUE DOMESTIC RADIO REPORT ON 20 NOVEMBER DETAILED THE EVENTS OF THE DAY AND CITED GORBACHEV'S CHARACTERIZATION OF THE TALKS AS "OPEN, SERIOUS, AND CONSTRUCTIVE." WHAT COMMENTARY HERE HAS BEEN FROM MOSCOW'S WARSAW PCT ALLIES HAS PRESENTED A POSITIVE PICTURE, DESCRIBING THE SUMMIT ATMOSPHERE IN FAVORABLE TERMS AND STRESSING THE BENEFITS OF U.S.-SOVIET DIALOGUE FOR THE GENERAL INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE. REPORTS ON BUDAPEST AND WARSAW DOMESTIC RADIO AND IN THE EAST GERMAN PARTY PAPER ON 20 NOVEMBER ALL DESCRIBED THE ATMOSPHERE AT THE SUMMIT AS "GOOD." THE HUNGARIAN REPORT ADDED THAT THE LEADERS "UNDERSTOOD EACH OTHER," EVEN THOUGH BY NO MEANS HAD ALL THE "SUBSTANTIAL DISAGREEMENTS" BEEN RESOLVED. IN PERHAPS THAT MOST OPTIMISTIC EARLY ASSESSMENT, WARSAW RADIO'S SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT IN GENEVA ON 21 NOVEMBER STATED THAT WHEN THE NEWS BLACKOUT WAS RAISED THE WORLD LEARNED THE SUMMIT "HAS MADE WAY FOR A FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IN SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS."

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WEST EUROPE

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UNITED KINGDOM

ACCORDING TO THE LONDON PRESS ASSOCIATION, PRIME MINISTER THATCHER TODAY CALLED THE GENEVA SUMMIT "CLEARLY ENCOURAGING." THATCHER SAID SHE BELIEVES THAT SUMMIT HAS GIVEN "FRESH MOMENTUM" TO THE ARMS CONTROL NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA.

FRANCE

FRENCH PRESIDENT MITTERAND SAID TODAY HE IS "PLEASED" WITH THE "GOOD ATOMSPHERE" IN GENEVA, BUT "WHATEVER THE RESULTS OF THE GENEVA AGREEMENT, IF ANY, THE DISCREPANCY BETWEEN THE NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS OF THE TWO MAJOR POWERS AND THAT OF OTHER COUNTRIES -- NOTABLY FRANCE AND GREAT BRITAIN -- WILL REMAIN CONSIDERABLE." MITTERAND TOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE BROADCAST LIVE BY PARIS RADIO THAT ALTHOUGH RESUMPTION OF THE U.S.-SOVIET DIALOGUE IS A "SIGN OF HOPE," FRANCE MUST NOT DECREASE ITS EFFORTS FOR AN "INDEPENDENT DETERRENCE STRATEGY" AND "SPACE TECHNOLOGIES."

FRG

WEST GERMAN POLITICAL PARTIES GENERALLY VIEWED THE SUMMIT IN A POSITIVE LIGHT. ACCORDING TO THE GERMAN NEWS AGENCY, A SOCIAL DEMOCRAT PARTY SPOKESMAN DESCRIBED THE MEETING AS GIVING "IMPETUS TO DETENTE IN EUROPE"; A CDU/CSU UNION OFFICIAL SAW IT AS A BASIS FOR IMPROVED EAST-WEST REELATIONS; AND THE HEAD OF THE FREE DEMOCRATS CALLED THE SUMMIT A "SOLID SUCCESS WHICH CAN ALSO BENEFIT THE FRG." THE GREENS, NOTING THAT PRESIDENT REAGAN AND GORBACHEV "MERELY TALKED TO EACH OTHER," SAID THE "PEACE MOVEMENT WILL HAVE TO CONTINUE THE FIGHT FOR REAL DISARMAMENT."

SWEDEN

STOCKHOLM RADIO OBSERVED TODAY THAT THE "RESULT SO FAR" OF THE MEETING BETWEEN "THE WORLD'S TWO MOST POWERFUL MEN" IS A "DISAPPOINTMENT." THE RADIO DESCRIBED THE SUMMIT'S FINAL DOCUMENT

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LAS "VERY WATERED DOWN," SAYING "DEEP DIFFERENCES OF OPINION" REMAIN
ON ALL IMPORTANT ISSUES.

ASIA

JAPAN

PRIME MINISTER NAKASANE TOLD REPORTERS TODAY THAT THE MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT REAGAN AND GENERAL SECRETARY GORBACHEV PRODUCED "FAIRLY GOOD" RESULTS IN THAT THEIR AGREEMENT TO VISIT EACH OTHER'S COUNTRY PROVIDES THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD WITH A "A SENSE OF SECURITY." NAKASONE, QUOTED BY THE KYODO NEWS SERVICE, ALSO SAID THE OUTCOME OF THE "SUPERSUMMIT" WILL FAVORABLY AFFECT RELATIONS BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE SOVIET UNION.

CHINA

CHINESE MEDIA CLOSELY FOLLOWED EVENTS AT THE SUMMIT BUT HAVE YET TO COMMENT ON ITS OUTCOME. IN ITS REPORTING, BEIJING ADHERED CLOSELY TO THE APPROACH IT TOOK IN EXTENSIVE COMMENTARY LEADING UP TO THE SUMMIT, TREATING WASHINGTON AND MOSCOW EVENHANDEDLY AND EMPHASIZING THE VALUE OF THE SUMMIT IN REDUCING GLOBAL TENSIONS WHILE HOLDING OUT ONLY LIMITED EXPECTATIONS FOR CONCRETE RESULTS. TYPICALLY, FOR EXAMPLE, THE OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY XINHUA ON THE 20TH CITED WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN LARRY SPEAKES AS OBSERVING AT THE END OF THE TALKS THE PRESIDENT TOLD GORBACHEV THAT U.S.-SOVIET DIFFERENCES "ARE SERIOUS, BUT SO IS OUR COMMITMENT TO IMPROVING UNDERSTANDING." XINHUA WENT ON TO QUOTE SOVIET SPOKESMAN ZAMYATIN'S REMARK THAT WHILE MANY DIFFERENCES COULD NOT BE SETTLED IN THE TWO DAYS OF MEETINGS, THE SUMMIT WAS NEVERTHELESS A "FIRST STEP."

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